Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A load balancer connected to a network connecting a plurality of clients requesting services and a plurality of servers executing operations based on said requests from said clients and replying with processing results comprising:

means for examining header information in request data from said client;

means for estimating, based on said header information and contents of said request data, processing load resulting from execution by said servers;

means for storing totals of said load estimates over a fixed past period for each of said servers;

means for dynamically selecting a server to which said request data is to be sent based on estimates of processing load on said servers resulting from current request data and total load for said servers; and

means for forwarding said request data to said servers.

2.   (Original)   A load balancer as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2

means for identifying a requested service type from said
header of said request data; and

means for estimating processing load on said servers based
on said service type.

3.   (Original) A load balancer as described in claim 1
further comprising:

means for calculating requested data size based on said
request data header and information about content data in said
servers; and

means for estimating processing load on said servers based
on said request data size.

4.   (Original) A load balancer as described in claim 1
further comprising:

means for identifying program types to be executed by said
servers based on said request data header; and

means for estimating processing load on said servers based
on execution of said programs.

5.   (Original) A server load estimation method using an
information processing device connected to a server and a
client sending a service request packet to said server
comprising the following steps:

requesting access to all services and all content data

that can be provided by said server;

measuring processing load on said server associated with

said request; and

generating data used to estimate, using said measurement

results, server load resulting from request data from said

client based on a header of said request data.

6.   (Original)   A load estimation method as described in

claim 5 wherein, in said step for measuring processing load on

said server, server processing load is estimated by measuring

response time between when said client sends said service

request packet and when a service response packet is received.

7. A load estimation method as described in claim 5

wherein, in said step for measuring processing load on said

server, server processing load is estimated by measuring CPU

load when said server receives said service request packet and

executes an operation based on said request.

8.   (Original)   A computer-readable storage medium storing

a program for implementing a method for estimating server load

using an information processing device connected to a server

4

and a client for sending a service request packet to said
server, said method including the following steps:

requesting access to all services and all content data
that can be provided by said server;

measuring processing load on said server associated with
said request; and

generating data used to estimate, using said measurement
results, server load resulting from request data from said
client based on a header of said request data.

9.   (Original)   A load balancing method using a processing
device connected to a network connecting a plurality of clients
requesting services and a plurality of servers executing
operations based on said requests from said clients and
replying with results from said operations, said method
comprising the following steps:

examining header information in request data from said
clients;

estimating, based on said header information and contents
of said request data, processing load resulting from execution
by said servers;

storing totals of said load estimates over a fixed past
period for each of said servers;

selecting dynamically a server to which said request data

is to be sent based on estimates of processing load on said

servers resulting from current request data and total load for

said servers; and

forwarding said request data to said servers.

10.   (Original) A computer-readable storage medium

storing a program for implementing a method for estimating

server load using an information processing device connected to

a plurality of clients requesting services and a plurality of

servers executing operations based on requests from said

clients and replying with results from said operations, said

method including the following steps:

examining header information in request data from said

clients;

estimating, based on said header information and contents

of said request data, processing load resulting from execution

by said servers;

storing totals of said load estimates over a fixed past

period for each of said servers;

selecting dynamically a server to which said request data

is to be sent based on estimates of processing load on said

servers resulting from current request data and total load for

said servers; and

forwarding said request data to said servers.

11.   (New)   A load balancer as described in claim 1,
further comprising:

a server load management table used to determine a server
that said request data are to be sent to,

wherein a server processing load resulting from said
request data is estimated and a load status value in said
server load management table is updated each time said load
balancer receives said request data from said clients.

12.   (New)   A load balancer as described in claim 11,
wherein said means for dynamically selecting a server selects
a server with the lowest value in a load status field of said
server load management table.

13.   (New)   A load balancer as described in claim 12,
wherein said load status field corresponding to the selected
server is updated with the estimated load evaluation value.

14.   (New)   A load balancing method as described in claim
9, wherein said processing device comprises a server load

management table used to determine a server that said request

data are to be sent to, and further comprising the steps of

estimating a server processing load resulting from said

request data and updating a load status value in said server

load management table each time said request data is received

from said clients.

15.   (New)   A load balancing method as described in claim

14, further comprising the step of selecting a server with the

lowest value in a load status field of said server load

management table.

16.   (New)   A load balancing method as described in claim

15, further comprising the step of updating said load status

field corresponding to the selected server with the estimated

load evaluation value.

17.   (New)   A computer readable storage medium as

described in claim 10,wherein said processing device comprises

a server load management table used to determine a server that

said request data are to be sent to, and wherein said method

further comprises the step of estimating a server processing

load resulting from said request data and updating a load

status value in said server load management table each time

said request data is received from said clients.

18.   (New)   A computer readable storage medium as

described in claim 17, wherein said method further comprises

the step of selecting a server with the lowest value in a load

status field of said server load management table.

19.   (New)   A computer readable storage medium as

described in claim 18, wherein said method further comprises

the step of updating said load status field corresponding to

the selected server with the estimated load evaluation value.